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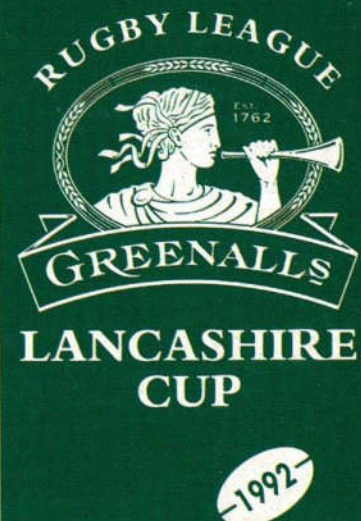


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SEMI-FINAL

**WIGAN
V
OLDHAM**

**TUESDAY OCTOBER 6th, 1992
KICK OFF 7.30pm**

PROGRAMME PATRON: Hindley Business Machines Ltd.

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE £1

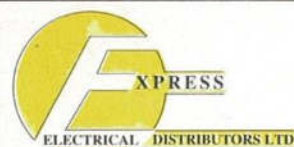
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CLUB RECORDS Year Formed 1872. Limited Company 1921. Home Kit Jersey Cherry & White, Shorts-Red, Stockings-White. Away Kit Jersey-Blue & White, Shorts-Blue, Stockings-White. Nickname The Riverside. Record Attendance 47,747 v. St. Helens 1959. Record Victory 116-0 v. Flintby & Fothergill 1925. Record Defeat 3-58 v. Leeds 1972. Try Scoring Record 62 in 1925-26 by J. Ring. Goal Kicking Record 176 by Fred Griffiths 1958-59. Points Scoring Record 394 in 1958-59 by Fred Griffiths.

Monie Talks

John Monie's Point of View ...

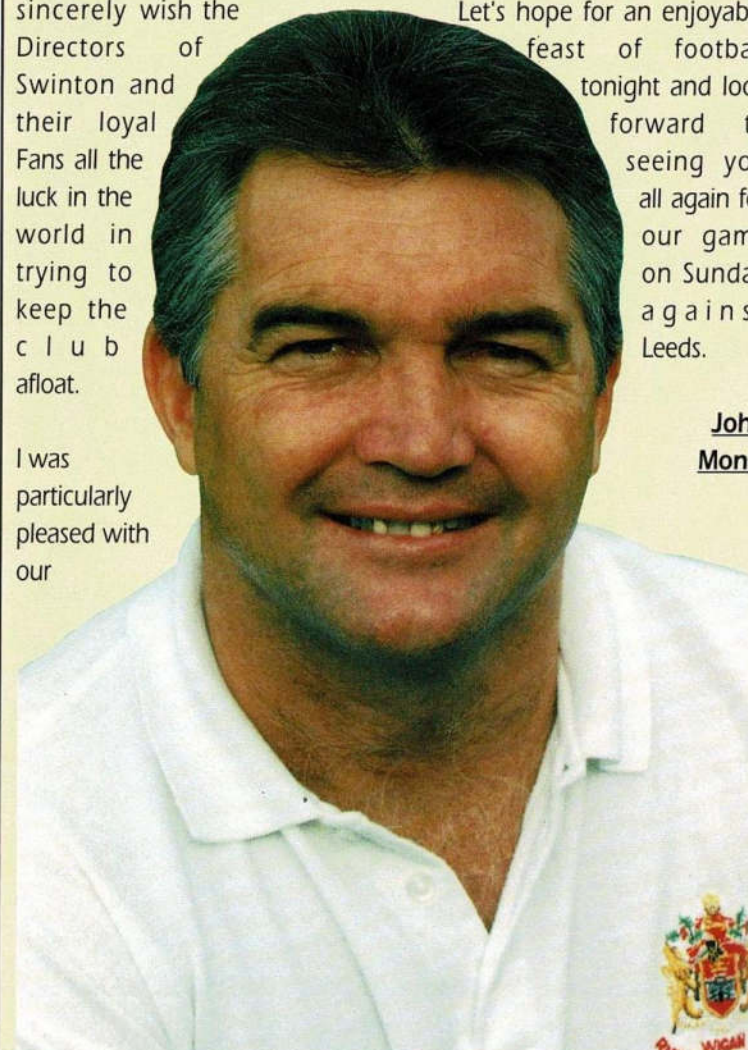
Tonight we welcome our Rugby League friends from Oldham for the Lancashire Cup semi-final. Last Tuesday when we visited Bury F.C. to play Swinton, our hosts were extremely kind and generous to us and I sincerely wish the Directors of Swinton and their loyal Fans all the luck in the world in trying to keep the club afloat.

I was particularly pleased with our

game against Widnes on the previous Friday to the Gigg Lane game, our commitment was excellent. The boys had worked hard all that week and at the end of it all we got what we deserved, a win.

Let's hope for an enjoyable feast of football tonight and look forward to seeing you all again for our game on Sunday against Leeds.

John Monie



Clubcall Quotes

ALWAYS THE FACT NEVER THE FICTION

"It's another first for Wigan, with more International Rugby League coming to Central Park." - **Wigan Director Maurice Lindsay on hearing the draw for the 1st round of the Regal Trophy.**

"That's the best game of Rugby I have been involved with since arriving at Central Park." - **Coach John Monie after the tremendous tussle against Widnes.**

"I learned an awful lot from Ellery Hanley about backing up, and supporting the man in possession and it payed off tonight." - **Shaun Edwards speaking on Clubcall within minutes of his try haul.**

"It's a compliment to the professionalism of the players the way they kept going for the full 80 minutes, and it was a day to remember for Shaun Edwards."

John Monie after the demolition of Swinton.

"Yes I am aware that Lancs Cup is the only trophy I have not managed to win, but I am not going to lose any sleep over it." - **John Monie.**

"Perhaps the game against Widnes will prove to be the turning point for the season, it could be just what we needed to kick start our game and we felt we needed to give the fans something, after some pretty ordinary performances." - **Wigan Skipper Dean Bell after the win over Widnes.**

Don't forget keep in touch for all the Inside Stories on the BIG NEW STORIES.

First and fast right there on

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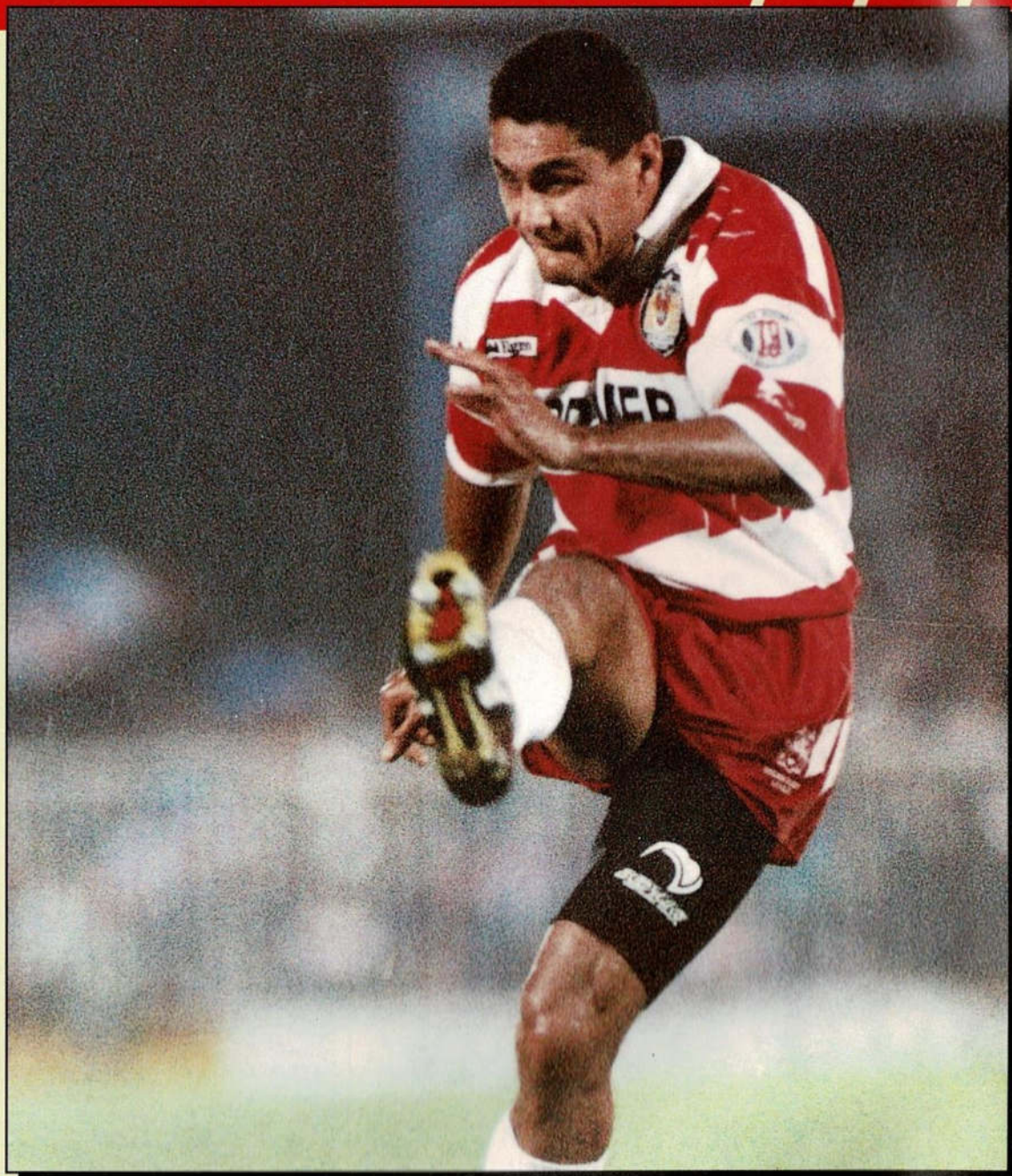
Jack Dearden
Wigan Club Call Editor

Wigan Clubcall 0898 121158

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Home and Away

A look at recent games ...



▲ Frano Botica launches another successful conversion.

Wigan

78

Swinton

0



▲ Touchdown! ... it's that man Edwards again.

▼ Gottcha! ... Steve Hampson puts in a copy-book tackle.



Martin Offiah gave Great Britain a World Cup scare when he was carried out of this Lancashire Cup semi-final massacre.

The flying Wigan winger suffered a knee injury and there were immediate worries for his Wembley place against the mighty Australians on October 24.

There was no repeat of the hamstring trouble that kept him out earlier this month - but his knee was promptly cased in ice because of tendon damage fears.

The injury was the only blot on a night that belonged to Shaun Edwards.

He turned in a super show, bagging 10 tries to equal Offiah's club record against Leeds last season.

Edwards, the game's deadliest finisher, was magnificent and involved in just about everything.

Poor Swinton, plagued by a cash crisis and forced to play at Bury's Gigg Lane, hardly knew what hit them.

Edwards had done most of the damage by the time the game was just 20 minutes old as Wigan ran up the points at the rate of one a minute.

The loss of Offiah five minutes after the break did nothing to slow down the Wigan machine.

Time and again they ripped through the fragile Swinton defence and almost every time it was Edwards who was there for the touchdown.

Edwards finished one short of the 87 year old League scoring record, but he still enjoyed his 10th the most.

It could easily have been scored by skipper Dean Bell, but with Edwards on hand he elected to give the scrum-half the final touch.

Photographs in today's programme are kindly supplied by the Wigan Evening Post.

Shaun Edwards

- A Man for all Seasons



League Spotlight

Reviewed by Chris Wilson

Tonight's County Cup semi-final throw up some intriguing possibilities. In the Lancashire Cup, Oldham meet the Champions Wigan at Central Park, while at Knowsley Road, the holders St. Helens take on Salford. In his second season as coach at Watersheddings, Peter Tunks has moulded an exciting side that has beaten Warrington and Leigh already in this competition. With little cash to throw about, he has changed the side with swap deals and free transfers so much so that only two players from the side that played a league fixture here at Central Park in 1990 are still at the club.

The 'Roughyeds' have set the early pace in the Second Division and tonight's clash will be a yardstick to their peporredness for the top flight next season should they gain promotion. There is plenty of spirit at the club as was shown in last seasons Premiership Final when Oldham fought Sheffield all the way despite having Keith Newton sent off early in the game.

Several Wigan old boys have moved to Watersheddings recently, Richard Russell, Ged Byrne and Sean Tyrer among them and although Byrne is currently in dispute with the club, the other two seem sure to play.

The side has plenty of pace in the backs and a good pack which helped them to victory over Warrington and provided the platform for the comfortable win over Leigh in the second round despite the side being a man down for much of the contest. Se'e Solomana has moved from Widnes to partner Mark Sheals in the front row although Sheal may be missing tonight due to suspension.

Iva Ropati, last seasons leading try-scorer in the Second Division, has returned from suspension to partner former Huddersfield man Stuart Cocker in the centre. Cocker began his Oldham career with four tries in his first two games and seems sure to notch

many more this season. Scott Ranson is a danger from anywhere on the field and the Wigan defence will have to be at its best to shut out the visitors.

Much has been made of Wigan's failure to reach the final of this competition under John Monie. The furthest he has reached has been two semi-finals in 1989 when Oldham ran out 19 points - 18 winners at Watersheddings and last year when St. Helens were convincing victor's at Knowsley Road.

Following last seasons glories, many have doubted the Central Park sides ability to challenge again for honours this season. A win tonight will put them in the final and give the side a chance to score a point or two on those of little faith. If the 78 points - 0 caning of Swinton is anything to go by the Cherry and Whites are determined to better last seasons achievements.

Oldham are not without hope. One thing that the season has already shown is that on any given day any one side can bear another. Oldham will be well prepared for tonight's game and well able to give Wigan an uncomfortable time.

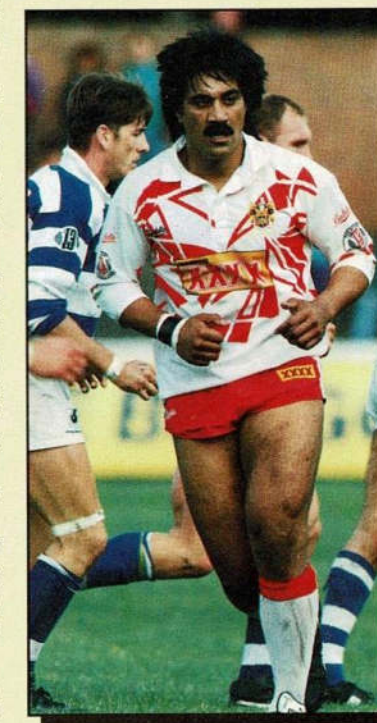
At Knowsley Road, Salford meet St Helens for the second time in a fortnight and will hope to do better than the 48 points - 8 thrashing they received in League football. The Saints were rarely out of second gear in that game as they punished the Red Devils every error with tries.

Saints however, are anxious to hang on to the trophy and will start as favourites to win. They had to fight every inch of the way to get past Widnes in the second round and a possible final showdown with Wigan is a very tempting lure.

Over the other side of the Pennines, there will be much interest at the Don Valley Stadium as Sheffield Eagles are just eighty minutes away from their first County Cup Final. The County Cups

have come in for some criticism but there will be no moaning from the Eagles should they overcome Hull. Having already disposed of Halifax and Bradford, the Eagles will not be overawed by the Humberiders who came to grief in Sheffield in the 1991 Challenge Cup and seem to have lost their early season form.

The other tie takes place at Featherstone Rovers meet Wakefield Trinity. Rovers are adjusting to their new coach and the loss of Deryck Fox while Trinity are struggling for League form. League positions won't mean much in this derby and the game could go either way.



▲ Se'e Solomana ... moved from Widnes to Watersheddings

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So come and meet the regulars at your Greenalls local. It could be the start of a beautiful friendship.



Availability will vary by individual pub.

Junior Riversiders

Hello everybody and welcome to tonight's 3rd Round Lancashire Cup tie. Also a warm welcome to all Junior Supporters of the Oldham Club.

Tonight's mascot, Ian Mitchell from Shevington, has been sponsored by our main sponsors **H.J Heinz Co. Ltd.** He was selected from the list of members who attended our September meeting.

The draw was very much at the last minute due to the previous round only being last week.

As you can see, Heinz are yet again supporting us for another season. Without their backing the HJR's could not function in its present way, so on behalf of all the members a big thank you to everyone concerned at **H.J. Heinz.**

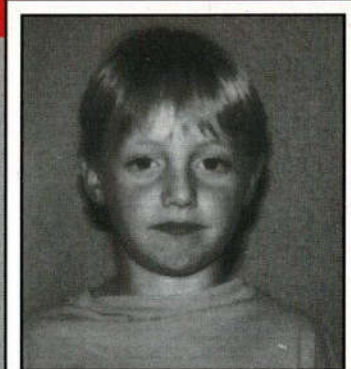
On the subject of mascot sponsors, we have a couple of matches still available apart from any home cup ties that may crop

up. Any company, organisation or even individual, who is interested in sponsoring a mascot should ring **Wigan 45073** for full details.

Our lounge under the Douglas Stand is open as usual tonight, both before and during the match. We have on sale a selection of refreshments available to all young supporters.

Membership of the H.J.R's is still open, forms for enrollment can be obtained in the HJR lounge. You can bring the completed form along to our next members meeting (see diary file) or preferably post it to the address on the form. This allows us to have your card ready in advance and saves you queuing at the members meeting.

The next members meeting will again include a raffle to win a lunch with Shaun Edwards. So don't miss it. Take care and see you soon
David Parker.



MASCOT DETAILS

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER: AD806

NAME: Ian Mitchell

HOME: Shevington

SCHOOL: Shevington County Primary

AGE: 6 1/2 Years

FAVOURITE PLAYERS:

Martin Offiah and Frano Botica

DIARY FILE

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 13th October
from 7pm to 9pm in Riverside Club

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WIGAN SIGN UP MILES

Miles Carrington has pledged his fortunes in Wigan's Super Ten Weekly Draw. It was whilst the promotions canvass team were working in the Orrell area when one was confronted by the former Alliance team winger of two or three seasons ago.

Following a couple of games in Wigan colours he left to join Salford. Miles has taken up the game again and is currently serving Orrell St. James.

£500 IMPULSE

Some of you probably do the same, look forward to meeting your friends at Central Park on a matchday.

This is exactly what Eric Marsh did on the Hull game. Taking up their seats in the popular stand, he was accompanied by his friend Bill McNulty.

It was whilst browsing the Matchday magazine they noticed the "Golden Gamble" promotion advert and decided to buy some tickets on impulse. Eric strolled towards the Kop end in search of the seller and purchased four tickets. Come the half-time draw and when the winning number was announced Eric realised he

had scooped the £500 prize.

The delighted winner said, "It was the last ticket that turned out to be

the winner." Fortunately he had his cheque book with him to share his small fortune with his friend, Bill.

GOLDEN GAMBLE . . .

is proving to be very popular throughout Wigan. The first draw of the season paid £500 and at the Widnes game the money had increased to **£650**.

LOOK FOR A SELLER TODAY - A SIMPLE PURCHASE COULD BRING BIG REWARDS -

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PUT YOUR SHIRT ON DOREEN

Luck has come in the direction of one of our Super Ten agents, Doreen West. She is an avid viewer of Sky's popular Rugby programme, "Boots 'n All." Whilst watching a recent production, she decided to enter the viewers competition to win a signed

Great Britain shirt.

Doreen said, "Viewers were asked to define five club crests. I recognised three of them but the other two I wasn't sure of. I checked up from the set of club information cards I had bought at the shop."

She posted off her entry and sat back awaiting the result.

From a sack full of entries Doreen

was announced as the outright winner.

She said, "I just sat there and screamed when my name flashed up on the screen."

£250 WINDFALL

Pensioner Dorothy Gallagher is the latest £250 full house bingo winner on Wigan's popular ticket.

She makes her regular weekly purchase from agent, Tom Blackledge who calls at Dorothy's home.

She said, "It was a very nice pick up after all these years. I have had 'um since the old fashioned

type and this is the most I have ever won. He's just been this morning and I've paid him for some more."

Mrs Gallagher's windfall came from a weekly 60p flutter.

LAUGHTER AT THE LEGION

The Leyland branch of Wigan R.L.F.C. Supporters Club is really taking off. At their inaugural meeting recently at Leyland British Legion, some 144 supporters attended. Last Wednesday the figure doubled and Club officials are backing the association. Steve Hampson, Billy McGinty, Neil Cowie and Sam Panapa accompanied Commercial Manager David

Bradshaw and Promotions Official, Gordon Harrison at the second gathering to participate in a questions and answers session.

Wigan certainly came out winners on the night with lots of laughter in the room and a bond of friendship created.

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ATTENTION ALL SUPPORTERS

from Preston, Chorley, Leyland and the surrounding areas.

Your area has now got it's own **Supporters Club** which meets on a monthly basis and receives preferential rates for away travel.

On September 30th, David Bradshaw took four players to Leyland for a sports forum. Over 150 people enjoyed a tremendous night with Neil Cowie, Sam Panapa, Billy McGinty and Steve Hampson.

If you want to know more about events in your area please contact David Bradshaw at Wigan Rugby League Club.

Telephone:

(0942) 31321

HELP YOUR CLUB

Come and join us and help your favourite club. All you need is around 19 relations, friends or workmates to join and become a Super Ten agent. In return you will receive :- **20p in the pound sales commission, a further 10% discount on major prizes sold, 10% discount on selected Club Shop merchandise and preferential treatment on Challenge Cup Tickets!!**

By the time you have read this column today, over **£104,000** will have been paid out in Super Ten Prizes - that's official!

There's another **£46,000** to come in the forthcoming weeks and you could easily become a lucky winner by making a regular 50p weekly subscription.

Miss a week and you could miss a treat!

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Almost £129,000 already won

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World Cup DATA



FINAL WORLD CUP TABLE

	P	W	D	L	Pts	F	A	Diff
Australia	8	8	0	0	16	235	68	+168
Great Britain	8	5	0	3	10	215	79	+136
New Zealand	8	5	0	3	10	203	120	+83
France	8	2	0	6	4	80	247	-167
Papua New Guinea	8	0	0	8	0	84	304	-220

WORLD CUP ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Host Country	Winners	Runners-Up
1954	France	Great Britain	France
1957	Australia	Australia	Great Britain
1960	England	Great Britain	Australia
1968	Australia & New Zealand	Australia	France
1970	England	Australia	Great Britain
1972	France	Great Britain	Australia
1975	Both Hemispheres	Australia	England*
1977	Australia & New Zealand	Australia	Great Britain
1988	Both Hemispheres	Australia	New Zealand

* The Rugby Football League entered England and Wales into the tournament, rather than Great Britain.



WIGAN

RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

1992-93 SEASON

Last Season with

the 'Roughyeds' Compiled by Chris Mott.

OLDHAM

Formed 1895-96

Ground Watersheddings

Last Season Division 2

P 28 **W** 18 **D** 2 **L** 8 **F** 558 **A** 421 **Points** 38

Position in Table 3rd

Biggest Home Win	52-18	v	Rydale-York	League
Biggest Home Loss	18-44	v	Sheffield	League
Biggest Away Win	30-10	v	Carlisle	League
Biggest Away Loss	26-39	v	St.Helens	Lancs Cup
Most Tries last season			Tommy Martyn	33
Most Goals last season			Tommy Martyn	34

Oldhams Cup Record

Lancashire Cup	Lost Rnd.2	26-39	v	St.Helens
Regal Trophy	Lost Rnd.2	18-24	v	St.Helens
Challenge Cup	Lost Rnd.1	3-8	v	Warrington
Premiership	Lost Final	20-34	v	Sheffield

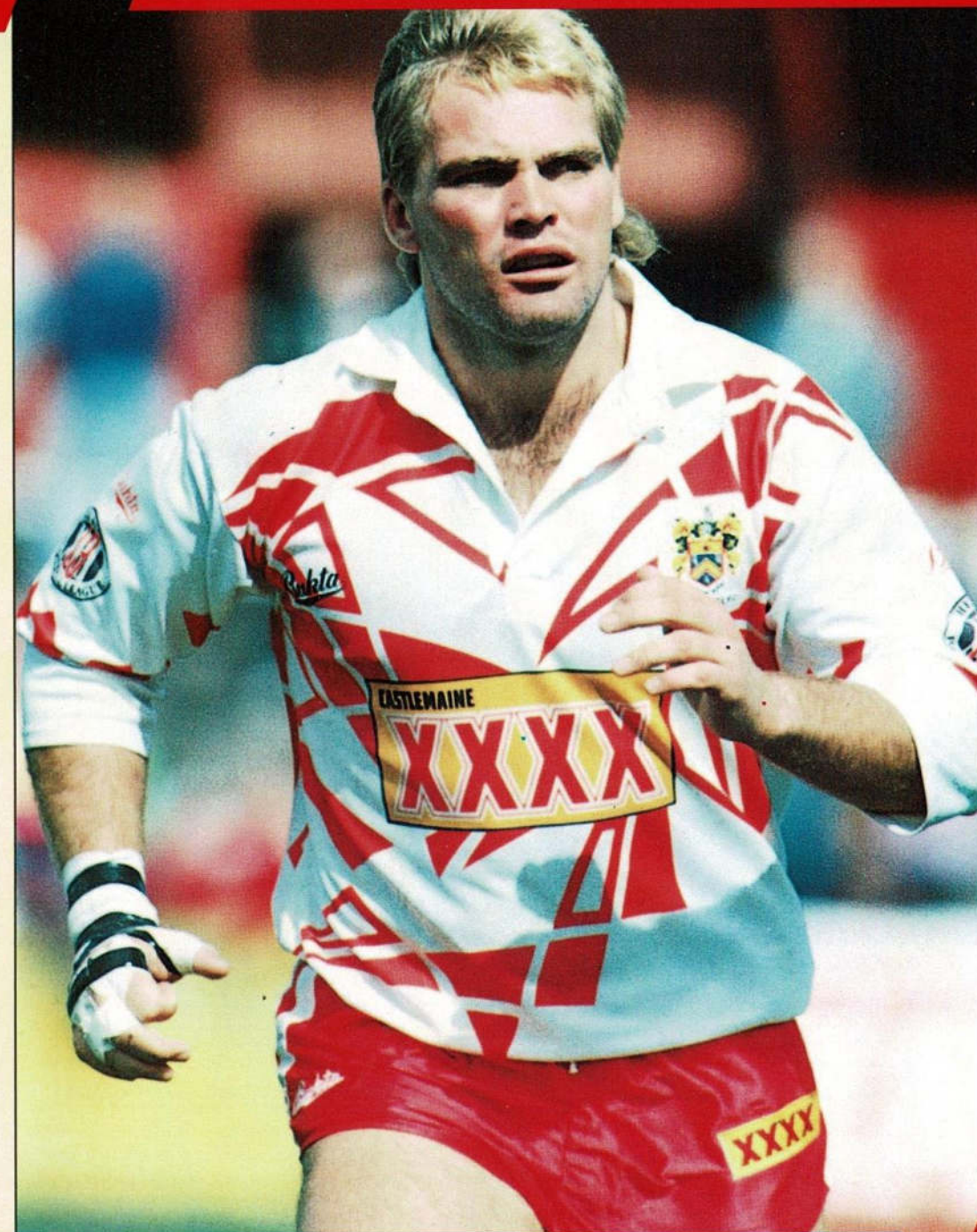
Roughyeds Honour's List

Challenge Cup	1898-99, 24-25, 26-27
Lancashire Cup	1907-08, 10-11, 13-14, 19-20, 24-25, 33-34, 56-57, 57-58, 58-59
Div.1 Champs	1904-05
Div.2 Champs	1963-64, 81-82, 87-88
2nd Div.Prem Winners	1987-88, 89-90

Ben Olsen

- Oldham's talented second row forward.

Picture by Chris Moore



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R.L. Topics

WORLD CUP FINAL FEVER

The 1992 World Cup Final at Wembley Stadium between Gt. Britain and Australia is now less than a month away and excitement is mounting from St. Helens to Sydney, Wollongong to Wigan, and Brisbane to Bradford. In fact as the countdown continues the October 24th showdown is going to be on nearly all RL fans' minds the world over. Already 55,000 tickets have been sold, which beats both the previous Test match best crowds at Old Trafford in 1986 and Wembley in 1990 and hopes are high that the 70,204 record Test match crowd in Sydney nearly 60 years ago will be smashed and even a 78,000 sell out crowd isn't too much of a hope.

AUSSIE WARM UP PROGRAMME

The Australians will play three warm up matches in Great Britain prior to the Final. They requested these games, as by the time of the final, some of their stars won't have played for 6 weeks, so match practice is essential. The teams selected to play them are Huddersfield, Sheffield Eagles and Cumbria. They are hardly the strongest opponents in the UK but the Australians are understood to be more than happy with their warm up programme and whilst many fans are sad that it's not their side playing the World Champions I'm sure that the people of Huddersfield, Sheffield and Cumbria will turn out in their thousands to watch the matches and get behind their sides. For Sheffield in particular, their October 14th showdown will be the first time that the Eagles will have ever faced the Kangaroos.

INJURY BLOWS

For Gt. Britain it has been well known since June that St. Helens centre Paul Loughlin will not be fit for the final with a broken arm but until recently it was originally thought that the Australians will be at full strength. However, in the last few weeks news has filtered

through that both Laurie Daley and Andrew Ettinghausen are both not going to be fit and that captain Mal Meninga has a niggling hamstring injury and although he is expected to be OK to play he will have this more recent injury at the back of his mind. All I hope now is that no further injuries are picked up by either of the two sides so that the best players available can be on show at Wembley.

MAL REILLY'S PLANS

Gt. Britain coach Mal Reilly is expected to name his squad at a press conference at R.L. Headquarters on October 13th. His squad will train together for the first time that afternoon and then watch Sheffield Eagles play Australia the following day at the Don Valley Stadium, following the October 17th weekend of club fixtures intensive and rigorous training will go ahead as will preparation for the match. The players will stay at home on the Monday and Tuesday evenings, then stay together in Leeds on the Wednesday before travelling down to their Wembley hotel in London on the Thursday.

MY BRITISH CHOICE

At full back, although Graham Steadman had a magnificent tour this summer, I would play Jonathan Davies. He too, like Graham, is a magnificent footballer and attacking player but I think his kicking game is far superior to Steadman's and I firmly believe that a strong kicking game is essential for Britain if they are going to win. Jonathan would also be the sides goal kicker.

In the threequarter line I think that the wingers Alan Hunte and Martin Offiah have few competitors for their jerseys and I would play these two. Martin and Alan, who finished top scorers on tour, in my opinion are arguably the best two wingers in the world at this time. In one of the centre positions I'd play Gary Connolly, Saint's ace three quarter. His

form on tour was superb and in my opinion came home as Britain's number one centre. In the other position I'd play either Daryl Powell or John Devereux. Daryl has the brains and the footballing experience and ability whereas John has speed, strength and an excellent defence. Both players are outstanding in their own right and are worthy of a World Cup Final place.

Britain's two half backs also pick themselves. At No.6 and captain I'd play Garry Schofield and at No.7 I'd go for Shaun Edwards. Schofield is Britain's dangerman and is the best stand off in the world where as Edward's lightning pace and backing up is essential at scrum half.

In the front row I'm opting for Kevin Ward and Andy Platt, the two players who the Aussies definitely fear at prop forward and Bernard Dwyer at hooker whose form this season, to date, has been magnificent.

In the back row, I like most critics would have, Denis Betts and Phil Clark at No.11 and 13 respectively as I feel these two are the best backrowers in the game and at No.12 I'd play Widnes' in form 2nd row forward Richard Eyres purely on form. To date this season he has been the best back row forward in the Big League and would therefore get my nod.

My side to face the Aussies would be 1. Davies (Widnes), 2. Hunte (St.Helens), 3. Connolly (St.Helens), 4. Devereux (Widnes), 5. Offiah (Wigan), 6. Schofield (Leeds), 7. Edwards (Wigan), 8. Ward (St.Helens), 9. Dwyer (St.Helens), 10. Platt (Wigan), 11. Betts (Wigan), 12. Eyres (Widnes), 13. Clarke, and if this side is selected I feel Gt. Britain could win.

By Bill Bates.

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▲ The Lancashire Cup back at Central Park.
Wigan captain Doug Laughton is swamped by young fans
after the victory at Knowsley Road against Widnes.

As the 1971-72 league season got underway, Wigan gave notice that they intended to keep the League Championship Trophy which they had won the previous season.

Leeds were Wigan's first opponents, and they were literally destroyed with an 8 try, 36-2 display from the Riversiders. However Wigan struggled to find any consistency in the early part of the season, and they lost 4 of their next 8 games. Things picked up in October and a sequence began where only 2 of the next 20 matches ended in defeat. Unfortunately the early season defeats had denied Wigan's title aspirations, and 2 more reversals in the last 4 fixtures meant that Wigan had to make do with 4th place.

During the season there were some strong performances and good wins were recorded at Central Park against Leeds 36-2, Bramley 53-3, Hull K.R. 33-10, Hull 48-5, Huddersfield 31-3, Castleford 37-0 and Keighley 36-7. Wigan could not score 30 points away from home, but they did beat Hull K.R. 28-3 at Craven Park in the last game of the season. Wigan's Championship playoff hopes only lasted 2 weeks a round 1 win over Oldham 18-8 at Central Park was countered by a 21-9

defeat by Salford on the same ground. A new competition was introduced to R.L. fans in 1971. It was called 'The John Player Trophy' (now called the Regal Trophy). Wigan's first opponents were 'Ace Amateurs' of Hull, who were beaten 33-9 at Central Park. Round 2 brought an 18-11 win at Hull K.R., to set up a third round tie with Leeds at Headingley. The match was drawn 12 points all, and hopes were high for the replay at Wigan, Leeds were just too good in the rematch sending Wigan tumbling out 5-12.

The BBC 2 Floodlit competition was now well established and Wigan faced Barrow at home in round 1. This was a 2 legged affair and Wigan won both meetings 23-11 and 19-11.

Round 2 brought a visit from Widnes, who were quickly emerging as The Team of the 70's, the Chemics moved into the next round with a 10-15 win.

The Challenge Cup got underway in January and the first round draw saw Wigan travel to the Willows to take on the mighty Salford. Sound teamwork saw the Cherry and Whites book a second round away trip to Wakefield, on the back of a 16-12 win. The Dreadnoughts gave Wigan a very tough game at Belle Vue, and a single point saw Wigan crash 5-6.

The New Zealand tourists were over in 1971, and Wigan's fixture ended in a 10-24 defeat for the home side.

Wigan's only hope of success in a season of near misses, was the Lancashire Cup round 1 saw Wigan win 16-6 at Huytons Alt Park, and the round 2 gave the Riversiders a bye. The semi-final was played at Station Road and Wigan's defence was superb as the team powered to the final 12-2. Widnes were Wigan's final opponents at Knowsley Road. Tries from Bill Francis, Warren Ayres and Eastham coupled with 3 Colin Tyrer goals gave Wigan the Trophy 15-8.

Complied by
Paul Hickey & Chris Mott



▲ Bill Francis

Bill Francis was persuaded to join Wigan for the 1964-65 season, after the Central Park scouts had seen him playing on television. Francis was a Yorkshire born 16 year old playing for an amateur side when Wigan spotted him (luckily for Bill, amateur RL was televised on Sunday afternoons during the early sixties.) For the next 13 years, Bill Francis used all of his many talents as a back, to help Wigan reach 6 major finals. Wigan won 3 of those finals and were also beaten semi-finalist on a further 7 occasions.

He was capped 4 times for Great Britain as well as being capped for Wales 12 times. In a programme interview in the 1976-77 season, Bill stated that his most admired team was St.Helens. Just one year later he was playing for them at Wembley

after an £8,000 transfer.

Bill Francis was a good servant to the Wigan club, and scored 159 tries and 36 goals in his 388 appearances for the Cherry and Whites.

Complied by
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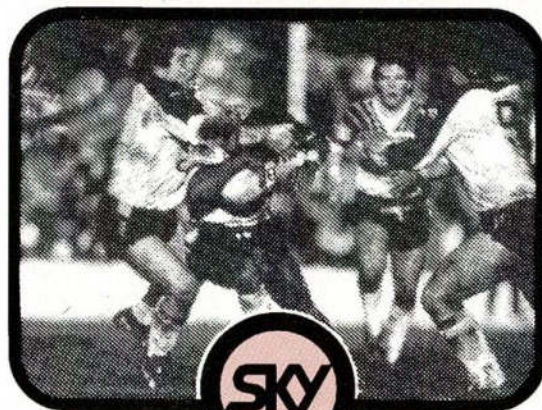


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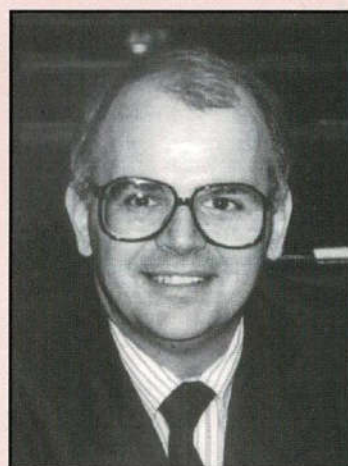
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Kop Chat

Compiled by Geoff Duckworth

Last Thursday evening, I was tuned into BBC's North West Tonight after the 6 o'clock National News when a rare Rugby League report came on, with video footage of the Saints v Widnes Lancashire Cup tie being shown. The general theme was that the Lancashire Cup may be in its last Season as it causes too much fixture congestion. One speaker thought that the Competition could be played earlier, with the season starting two weeks earlier and friendly Charity Cup games being discontinued. Another thought that the competition may fold because it did not attract the very large sponsorship money. A Lancashire representative was insistent that the Lancashire Cup should continue in its present form.

So many different points of view and ideas! I thought after the programme that if very large sponsors were needed, then large conglomerates needing a clean profile and clean image could be approached, and since 1974 when the old Lancashire County lost great chunks to Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Cheshire and even Cumbria could we not set up other competitions. Widnes and Warrington could fight out every season for the "We burn down the Rain Forests but we are very apologetic Cheshire Cup", St Helens could take on Highfield and regularly win the "German Bundesbank Merseyside Cup", Blackpool Gladiators and Chorley, the only two clubs actually in Lancashire would play for the "Sorry about the oil slick Lancashire Cup", clubs in Greater Manchester would not have a competition because there are too many of them and that would defeat the object of cutting the number of games. I hasten to add these are not the views of Wigan Rugby League Club and we are not meant to be taken seriously. My personal opinion is that the Competition should continue either in its present form or perhaps the very top sides could be seeded and enter in a later round. A Lancashire Cup Final with a 20,000 plus crowd this season could perhaps be an indication to the authorities of what the people on the terraces think.

We read reports in the local press last week that prop Stuart Evans who is still on the books at St Helens had turned out for

Grenoble in a top French Rugby Union game against Toulon. I do not suppose there is any chance of him "turning amateur" and playing for a French Rugby League Club.

How hopes can be raised and then dashed to the ground were graphically illustrated last week with the news of the Wigan v Brisbane Broncos World Cup Challenge. Wednesday's Ceefax raised the hopes of a game at Central Park the weekend after the World Cup Final and then the reports in the following days papers that the Australian Rugby League were against the game sparked the anticipation.

Those of you that were at the Wigan v Manly World Club Challenge will remember what a never to be forgotten event that was.

I notice that the organisers of the World Cup Final were trying to get Tina Turner to perform at the final but as she is on tour in the States, she will not be able to come. Do any of you remember seeing her at the Ritz in Wigan in 1964 when she and husband Ike were a support act to the Rolling Stones?

What do you think of the Regal Trophy Draw? A game against French Champions Carcassonne should be one to savour. In true Michael Caine manner we can say "Wigan have played Carcassonne before in 1946-47, not many people know that!"

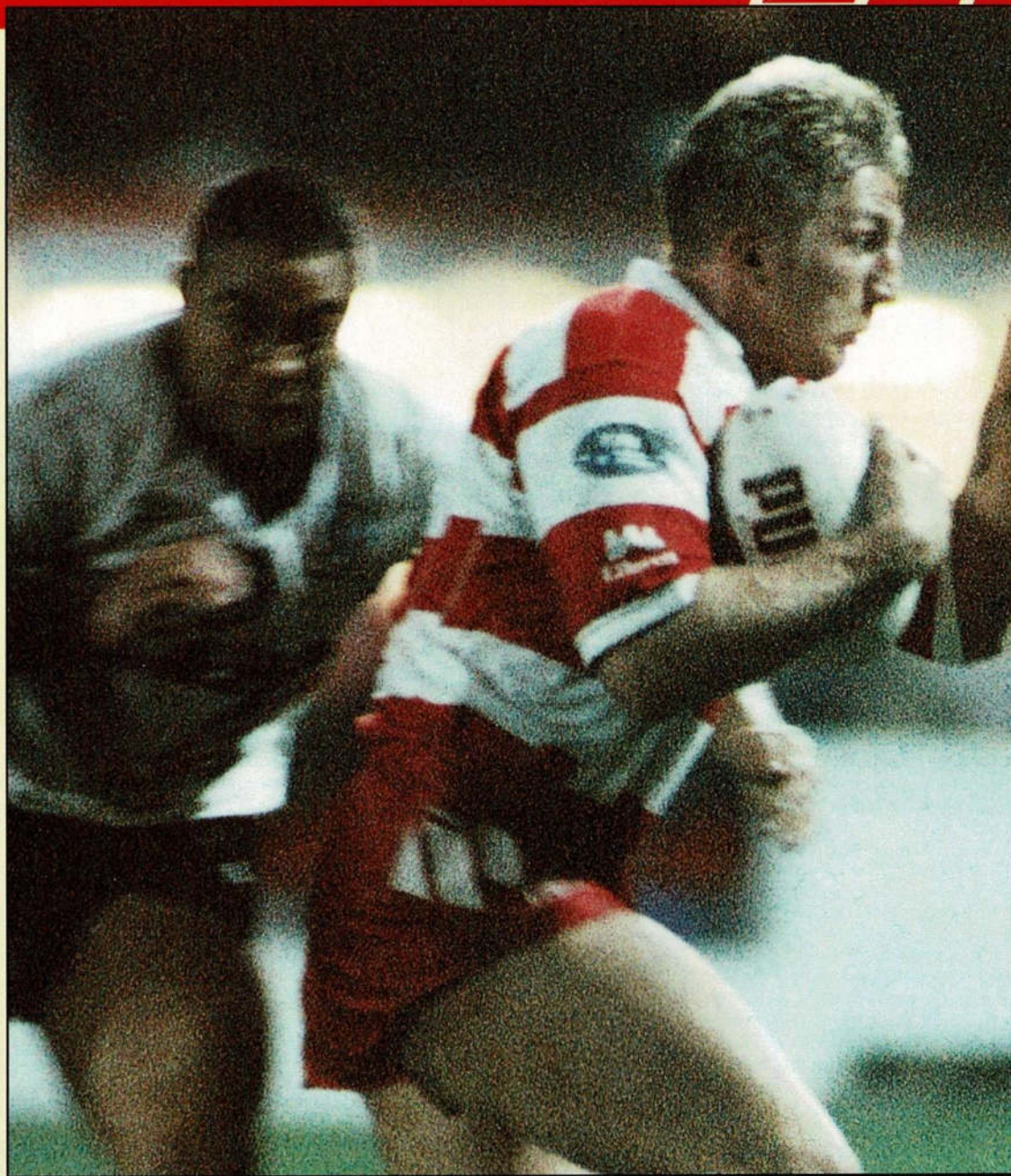
Even Ian Morrison's excellent book "Every Wigan game played since 55 BC including all the try scorers since the black death" does not make mention of a game played against Carcassonne. Guess what? Wigan lost! So everyone over the age of about seventy will see this as a revenge match. I'll bet a number of the Wigan team have played in Carcassonne perhaps at schoolboy level, as well as full international. The town with wonderful medieval ramparts (If you saw "Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves," that was shot in Carcassonne) is a hot bed of Rugby League surrounded by miles and miles of vine yards. Not a bit like Whelley or Ince! The whiff of garlic will be evident at Central Park on November 8th. Will the Stones Bitter Championship be replaced by the "Vin de pays Championship?" I doubt it.

In conversation last Saturday with Frano Botica and Steve Hampson. Frano was explaining that he did not really enjoy kicking goals and that the only way to success was constant practice. Steve added that he had watched Frano for hours and hours and had followed instructions on how to kick the Botica way. However, Frano's kicks went unerringly straight while Steve's bent like a banana. Does this tell us that kickers are born and not made? There is no doubt in my mind that Frano is the best kicker in the world but Frano insisted that Grant Fox was No 1.



▲ Frano Botica ... practice makes perfect!

Action Replay



▲ Denis Betts ... forces his way through.



▲ Kelvin Skerrett ... tries to elude the clutches of Richie Eyres.

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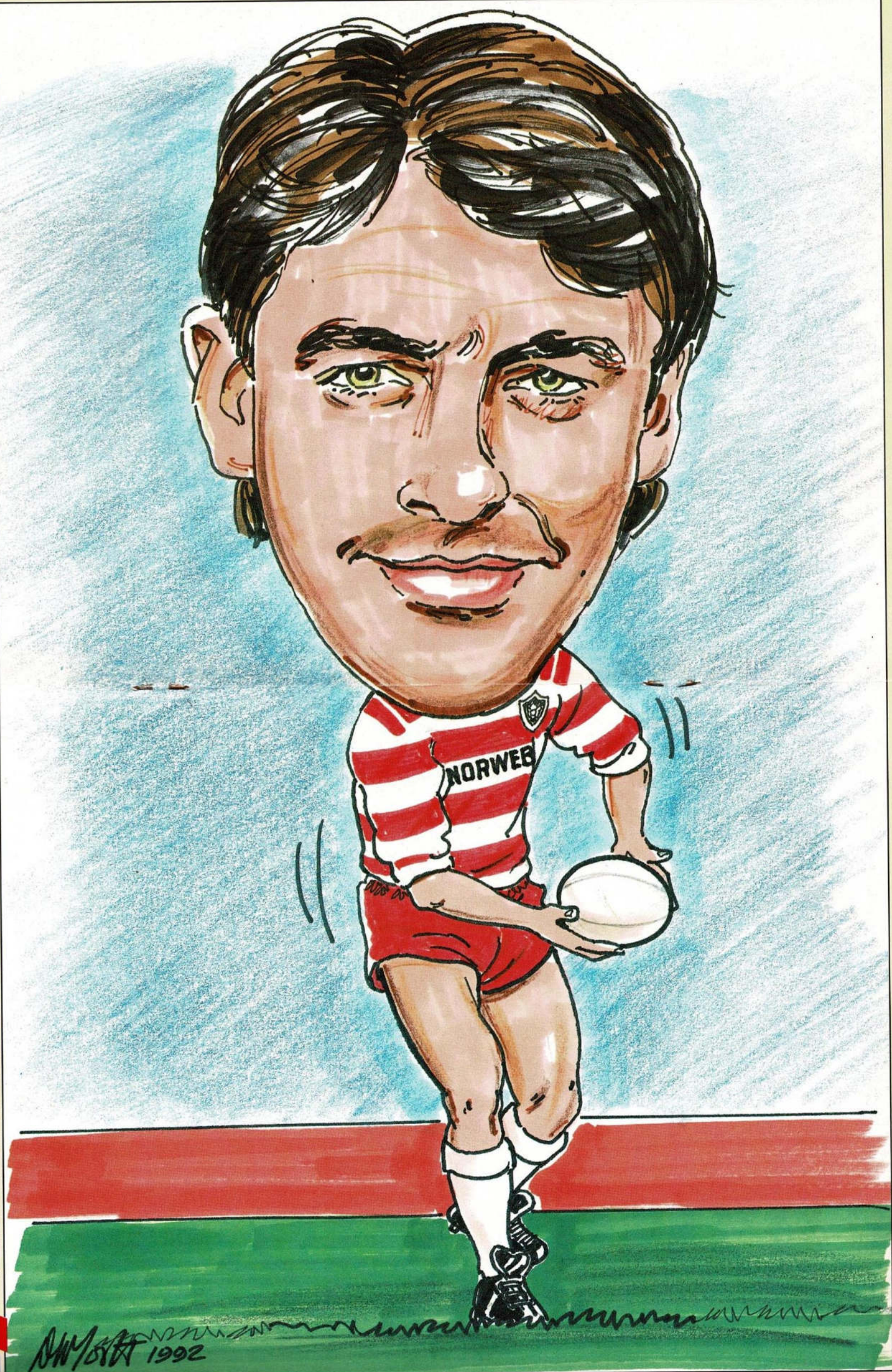
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ON THE FACTS

Andy Currier of Widnes needs three tries for a career century of touchdowns for the club. Currier's total of 97 tries have come in 217 appearances, including 12 as substitute.

He holds the joint Widnes match record of five tries against Featherstone Rovers on 25th September 1988. Playing in the centre, he also kicked seven goals for a joint club record 34 points.

Formerly with Halton Hornets Amateurs, Currier made a try scoring debut for Widnes as a substitute in a 28-4 Division One home defeat of Salford on 18th September 1983.

He made his full debut on the wing when Widnes lost 21-4 in a Division One match at Featherstone Rovers on 4th December 1983. In addition to his record five-try feat, Currier has scored four tries in a match once and two other hat-tricks.

His most prolific season was 1990-91 with 23 tries putting him 10th in the try chart - the only time he has finished in the top ten.

Currier has also scored six tries in respective matches as follows: 2 for Lancashire, 1 Great Britain Under-21's and 3 on the 1988 British Lions tour of Australia and New Zealand.

He also scored several tries for Balmain in the Australian Winfield Cup, but they are not included in his records as a British player. He has played in one Test match for Great

Britain without scoring. Currier has also scored more than 200 club and representative goals.

Paul Eastwood of Hull scored his 100th try for the club in their John Smiths Yorkshire Cup Second Round home defeat of Leeds.

Paul Medley the Bradford Northern and former Leeds and Halifax international forward, needs one try for a career century of touchdowns.

Garry Schofield of Leeds needs one try for a career century of touchdowns with the club.

Daryl Powell needs four tries for a career century of touchdowns for Sheffield Eagles and only two for 100 club and representative tries.

LEAGUE TABLE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
St.Helens	4	4	0	0	117	44	8
WIGAN	4	3	0	1	92	36	6
Halifax	4	3	0	1	112	63	6
Warrington	4	3	0	1	91	44	6
Bradford	4	3	0	1	97	52	6
Castleford	4	2	0	2	98	46	4
Widnes	4	2	0	2	46	48	4
Hull	4	2	0	2	58	30	4
Sheffield	4	2	0	2	47	30	4
Salford	4	2	0	2	69	194	4
Leeds	4	1	0	3	62	95	2
Hull K.R.	4	1	0	3	28	79	2
Wakefield	4	0	0	4	42	95	0

STONES BITTER TEAMS OF THE MONTH

Table toppers St.Helens, Oldham and Ryedale-York are the first winners of the Stones Bitter Team of the Month titles for 1992-93.

The Saints are not only sitting at the top of the Stones Bitter Championship table, but are also the new holders of the CIS Insurance Charity Shield, having beaten rivals Wigan at Gateshead in August, and are still making progress to retention of the Lancashire Cup.

Lancashire Cup semi-finalists Oldham are also unbeaten in the Stones Bitter Second Division, being clear leaders with their 100% success rate in the four fixtures during September.

Revitalised Ryedale-York have bounced back from relegation last season to head the Stones Bitter Third Division as the only team with an unbeaten record after the opening four fixtures. The Wasps are also the Division's top points scorers with an average of 42 per game.

Stones Bitter prize cheques will be presented to the September award winners to the value of £500 for St.Helens, £350 for Oldham and £250 for Ryedale-York.

Sporting Press

by Josh

As the World Cup Final draws nearer I find myself ruminating on the game world wide. Rugby League, alas, cannot as yet truly be called a world game. In France it struggles manfully on in the teeth of intense animosity from the higher paid professionals of the "amateur" game. The appearance of a couple of French sides in the Regal Trophy this season is to be profoundly welcomed and let's hope they do really well at say St Helens or Leeds.

In Papua New Guinea clearly there is a real passion for the game, but it is only one small and not very rich country. In South Africa, now that it is no longer the leper of international sport, the Union code seems determined to kill the infant League at birth, as it has before. In the former U.S.S.R. the monumental changes taking place in the whole of society must endanger the growth of the game there. Things look brighter in New Zealand where steady progress is being made, but it is in Oz that the great game really thrives.

Clearly they owe a great deal to us over the decades, but in the last ten years they have taken the game to new heights. When Krich brought his touring party in 1982 they showed us how far we had slipped behind and how the game could be played. The search was on for ways to start catching up. One of the most obvious short term solutions was to get Aussie players, almost any Aussie players it

seemed for some clubs. It looked as if some club chairmen felt that a Sydney accent, a Bondi beach tan and a pair of boots was all that was needed. Of course there were a lot of good players who came over as well.

This led to the annual flight back for the Cup Final in May for someone who had missed both quarter and semi-finals. Sometimes this did work splendidly, as in the case of John Ferguson in the classic final of 1985. However it also backfired. Remember the abysmal performances of Paul Vautin and Michael O'Connor for St Helens in the wonderful 27-0 final of 1989? (Twenty seven - nil, has a lovely ring to it don't you think?) These were two high class international players but a couple of lads out of the A team might have contributed more (to an admittedly lost cause).

Since Kerry Hemsley returned to join Mark Cannon and Wayne Elvin for the Wembley defeat by Joe Lydon in 1984 we at Wigan have been well served by some outstanding Australians; Brett Kenny, Greg Dowling, Steve "Zip Zip Man" Ella, John Ferguson and of course Gene Miles last season. This is quite a procession for Andrew Farrar to have to follow but he has great talent and experience and is determined to do well. Remember how slowly big Gene began last year before skillfully powering through the second half of the season? So let's give Andrew every chance and encouragement in the

weeks ahead, and watch out for that power running.

With Wembley less than three weeks away, however, it is time to put these thoughts aside and build up our collective loathing for the whinging Oz. The absence of Daly can only help the British cause, but who will be representing us? Are Andy Gregory or Ellery Hanley in contention? Who will be hooker? Will Kevin Ward have one last hurrah? What about Moriarty? How many Wigan men? Let us think positively of the last Wembley test and the second test of the summer. Remember Billy "he's much too small to be an international second row" McGinty charging round that pitch tackling everything in green and gold, and nearly outpacing Newlove for a try, while the giant Sironen was being substituted. Whoever is selected by Malcolm Reilly, even if we disagree personally, must have our genuine support. This means that for that weekend we must put aside all our parochial rivalries, just like the touring fans did Down Under in the summer. Remember rival British Club jerseys hugging in celebration in the stands and singing in unison?

Australia have ruled the roost in Rugby League for too long. That has changed, and it would be a good thing for the game of Rugby League globally if after October 24th some other nation than the Aussies had earned the right to call themselves world champions - the Brits!



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SUPPORTER'S ASSOCIATION TRAVEL

A win over Oldham tonight would put us into the Lancashire Cup Final on 18th October, causing a postponement of our trip to Hull scheduled for that day.

There can be no details of opponents or venue as yet, but everything will be sorted out by Sunday when we play Leeds so coach booking can be made then, at either of our shops inside the ground, or during the week on **46371** (evening) or **866726** (daytime).

If the Hull fixture is rearranged to be played in the next couple of weeks coach bookings will be taken by telephone of course it is most unlikely to take place before **24th October**, the date of the World Cup Final.

WEMBLEY

We have had an excellent response to our trip to the World Cup Final on

24th October, and we hope to fill the final coach by next weekend, as Leeds is our last home game before the trip.

There are still about **20 seats** remaining. No money will be collected on the day, so please pay for your seats tonight or Sunday. **Adults £19, Juniors £15.** Departure time 7.30 am.

Some people have already booked provisionally or paid deposits, so would those supporters please make their payments or settle the balance by Sunday?

PLAYER OF THE MONTH

Goldsmiths Jewellers of Market Place are sponsoring the Supporters' Association Player of the season awards for the 3rd year in succession. Voting slips for the end of the season are on the back of your membership cards, but we are continuing with the monthly voting as well. Some votes have already been sent in for September, but printed below is another slip for last

month to give everyone a second chance to vote. As usual if you do not wish to cut your programme you can make a copy of the slip and hand it in to our shops, any committee member or the main office. September's result will appear in the Sheffield programme.

SHAUN EDWARDS' TESTIMONIAL

The next event is the Superbowl Evening on **Wednesday** next week, **14th October**. Tickets are priced at **Adults £5, Juniors £3.50, family ticket (for 4) £12.50**. Shaun is 26 on the 17th October, so the Superbowl Evening is going to be a Birthday celebration. All tickets purchased in advance will be entered in a raffle, and there will be people from the Superbowl selling tickets at the ground tonight and on Sunday.

Tickets can also be purchased from the Superbowl in Wallgate.



WIGAN

WIGAN RUGBY LEAGUE

My nomination for the Goldsmiths' Jewellers **PLAYER OF THE MONTH** for September 1992 is

Member's Name Membership No:

Youngers Alliance Review

Youngers Alliance Update



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Widnes 8 Wigan 40 (27.9.92)

In a rare Sunday fixture we travelled to Naughton Park and for the second week running reached the forty points mark, completely outplaying the opposition. The pattern was set right from the first minute when Steve Blakeley kicked a penalty for a high tackle by Emosi Koloto. Shortly afterwards Christian Tyrer equalised for Widnes when we were penalised for being off-side at a drop out from under the posts, but four tries before half-time made the interval score 24-2 and put us well in command. First Scott Naylor chased Lee Atherton's kick ahead and won the race to the line to dive on the ball. Blakeley converted. A great break by Mick Cassidy, continued by Atherton, led to the second try by Andrew Farrell, who raced 40 yards to the posts after Atherton had drawn the full back perfectly. Blakeley again added the goal. Graeme West was the next on the scoresheet, crashing through at first pass from a play the ball close to the line. Blakeley's goal made the score 20 points to 2 just before half-time Andre Stoop scored the best try of the match, taking a low pass at full stretch and beating three tacklers as he cut inside to the line.

The second half was something of an anti-climax, several chances being wasted before Danny Ellison finished well in the left corner after Paul Gartland had been hauled down a few yards short. Blakeley kicked an excellent conversion. Minutes later Ellison added a second in almost the same spot, taking Barrie-Jon Mather's well timed inside ball, and Blakeley again hit over a superb goal. Widnes finally managed to cross the line through their scrum half Chris

Kelly, the try converted by Tyrer, but Blakeley rounded off the proceeding by wearing through on the right for the final try.

Team:- Stoop, Myers, Naylor, Gartland, Ellison, Blakeley, Atherton, Cowie, Cassidy, Barr, Mather, Farrell, Forshaw,
Subs:- Hope, West

THE RUGBY LEAGUE ACADEMY PRESS RELEASE

The Rugby Football League's newly formed Academy received a further boost when they were asked to find the Ball Boys for the Stones Bitter World Cup Final at Wembley on Saturday 24th October 1992. The Academy Management considered this to be a great honour and are delighted to be able to play a small part in such a highly prestigious occasion.

The Ball Boys have been selected via a random draw where ten teams were selected from the 15 competing Academy clubs. Each of the ten teams have been asked to nominate a suitable individual to represent the Academy. Obviously high on the list of criteria has been their attitude towards Rugby League, their commitment towards Rugby League and their desire to succeed. All of which are encompassed in the Academy ethos.

The players selected will no doubt be a great credit to their clubs and the Academy and we look forward to helping the Rugby Football League stage the most important game of the decade.

STATISTICS

DATE	OPPONENTS	VENUE	K.O.	RES.	F - A
Fri 4th Sept	Hull	A	8.00	L	18-44
Tries:- Farrell (2), Stoop. Goals:- Blakeley (2), Gartland.					
DATE	OPPONENTS	VENUE	K.O.	RES.	F - A
Thurs 10th Sept	St.Helens	A	7.30	W	32-16
Tries:- Ellison (2), Cassidy, Farrell, Gartland (4), Naylor, West. Goals:- Gartland.					
DATE	OPPONENTS	VENUE	K.O.	RES.	F - A
Fri 18th Sept	Wakefield	H	7.30	W	46-10
Tries:- Hope (3), Mather (2), Blakeley, Williams, Cassidy, Naylor. Goals:- Blakeley (5). Man of Match:- Mike Forshaw.					
DATE	OPPONENTS	VENUE	K.O.	RES.	F - A
Sun 27th Sept	Widnes	A	3.00	W	40-8
Tries:- Ellison (2), Naylor, Farrell, West, Stoop, Blakeley. Goals:- Blakeley (6).					
DATE	OPPONENTS	VENUE	K.O.	RES.	F - A
Fri 2nd Oct	Swinton (Lancs.Comb.Cup 1st Rnd)	H	7.30		
DATE	OPPONENTS	VENUE	K.O.	RES.	F - A
Wed 7th Oct	Leeds	A	7.30		

THE RUGBY LEAGUE ACADEMY Saturday 26th September 1992

GROUP A			
Hull K.R.	10	St.Helens	34
Sheffield E	52	Dewsbury	10
Wakefield T	16	Wigan	34
GROUP B			
Castleford	22	Featherstone R	26
Leeds	32	Salford	24

Monday 29th September 1992

GROUP B			
Warrington	v	Leigh	7.30

Wednesday 30th September 1992

GROUP B			
Featherstone R	v	Bradford N	7.30

Saturday 26th September 1992

GROUP A			
Sheffield E	v	Hull K.R.	2.30
Widnes	v	Wakefield T	2.30
Wigan	v	St.Helens	2.30
GROUP B			
Castleford	v	Warrington	2.30
Hull	v	Leeds	2.30
Leigh	v	Salford	2.30



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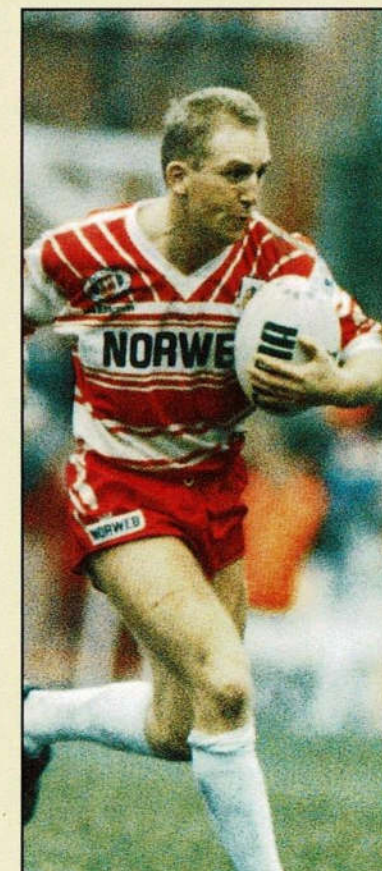
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Ten-Minute-Ten

Half Time Quiz

1. Which overseas player first appeared for Wigan when coming on as a substitute in the Lancashire Cup Semi-Final against St.Helens in October 1985?
2. Which overseas player first appeared for Wigan when coming on as a substitute in the Lancashire Cup Semi-Final against St.Helens in October 1986?
3. Which player equalled the Lancashire Cup Final record when he kicked seven goals for Wigan against Warrington in October 1985?
4. Who was the only player to appear in Wigan's five successive Lancashire Cup Finals between 1984-85 and 1988-89 seasons?
5. Which team beat Wigan in three successive Lancashire Cup Finals in 1934-35, 1935-36 and 1936-37 seasons?
6. Which player scored seven tries in Wigan's defeat of St.Helens in a Lancashire Cup first round game in August 1976?
7. Which former Wigan player was the losing captain in last season's Lancashire Cup Final?
8. Which player's four tries for Wigan against Leigh in 1949-50 is still a record for a Lancashire Cup Final?
9. At which venue did Wigan play in the first round of the Lancashire Cup last season?
10. In October 1991 which former Wigan player became one of the few players to gain winners medals for both the Lancashire Cup and the Yorkshire Cup?



▲ Five successive
Lancashire Cup Finals ...
Question 4

WHO AM I ?

... joined Carlisle at the age of 20 in 1982 ... and soon represented Cumbria ... gained the first of 26 international caps in 1983 ... was a John Player Special Trophy winner in 1984 ... when playing for Leeds ... spent two seasons with Eastern Suberbs ... joined Wigan in 1986 ... captained New Zealand ... celebrated recent Birthdays at Wembley ... chosen Man of Steel in 1992.

ANSWERS 1. Steve Ella 2. Ian Roberts 3. David Stephenson 4. Shaun Edwards 5. Salford 6. Green Vigo 7. Colin Whitfield 8. Brian Nordgren 9. Crystal Palace National Sports Centre 10. Mike Ford WHO AM I ? Dean Bell

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★STAR LETTER★

Two local Puppywalkers for Guide Dogs for the Blind Association kept the 'Wigan' flag flying in the summer while most of the Wigan players were out of the Country.

They were in the awards at the local Guide Dogs training centre open day, in their fancy dress section.

The photograph shows Mrs. Elsie Rhodes with 'Jess' who is now in training at Bolton and Mrs. Eileen Whittington with 'Pam' who is still being 'Puppywalked' around the streets of Standish and Wigan.

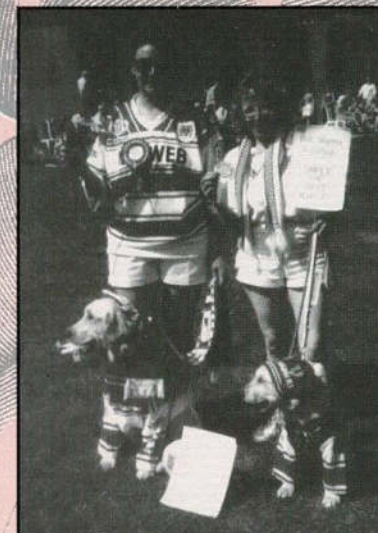
They were called 'Team Work' which as you will agree is necessary both as a Rugby Team and as a working Guide Dog Unit.

Yours sincerely,
Eileen Whittington
Standish.

We look forward to sharing your news and views this season. It's up to you to put pen to paper. You could win yourself two special seats for the next Wigan game.

Please send all correspondence to
The Programme Editor,
Central Park,
Wigan, WN1 1XF.

Get writing and be our guest!



▲ Elsie Rhodes with 'Jess' and Eileen Whittington with 'Pam'.

Dear Sir,
Everytime we read a Wigan Review Programme we are always reading about the efforts of the Team and Directors, well how about the efforts of the Groundsmen **Derek**? The pitch this season is looking really great due I am sure to the hard efforts of Derek and his Staff. So well done to Derek for an excellent job, he deserves the praise.

Yours,
D.K. Hazlehurst
Chorley.

Dear Sir,
Congratulations on the improvements to the official Matchday Magazine, the extra reading content is much appreciated.

As for the Wigan team, yet again it would appear that rumours of our demise (again?) are greatly exaggerated. This could be yet another momentous season in our illustrious history. How about these predictions coming true over the next 9 months.

- 1) Wigan to reach Wembley for the 6th consecutive season!
- 2) Shaun Edwards to top the try scorers with 64 tries!
- 3) Wigan to provide at least 7 players to the Great Britain team that topples Australia at Wembley in front of 70,000 fans.
- 4) At least 2 Saints supporters agree that Wigan are perhaps a great team after all!
- 5) Wigan retain the World Club Championship beating Brisbane Broncos in their own back yard!

Ok, ok you've spotted it, one of these predictions is a joke - but which one?

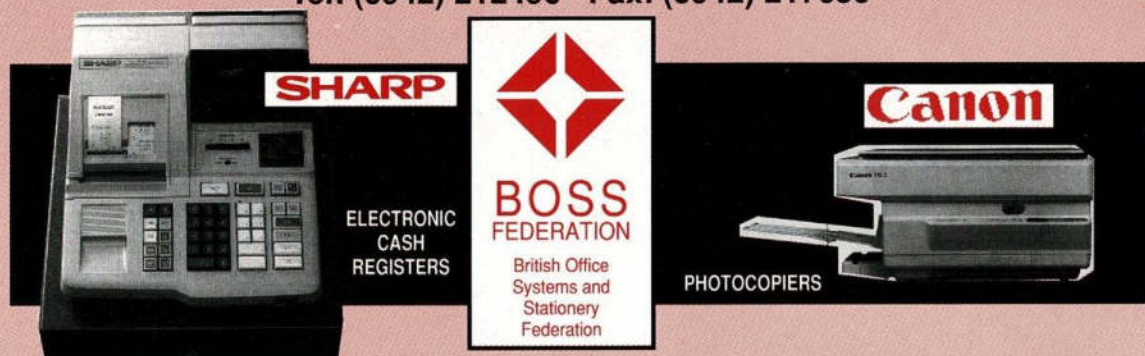
To everyone at the Club, please keep up the good work. I for one will never tire of success.

Yours in R.L.,
Ian Molyneux
Worsley Mesnes.

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by David Bradshaw



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The Wigan Programme will be starting a
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7071
Turner, Whelley
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6637
Thomas, Wigan
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4666
A.Winstanley, Ashton
£50
6491
M.Jones, Orrell

Draw No. 39
Thursday Sept 24th, 1992

£1200
3718
J.Fielding, c/o Station Hotel, Orrell
£400
4188
J.Entwistle, Whitside Ave, Hindley
£250
0346
Taylor, Waverley Rd, Hindley

£100

0076 Berry, Cygnet Street,
Poolstock

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6451
Evans, St.Davids Crescent, Aspull

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Station, Orrell
15th October
Highfield Cricket Club
22nd October
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29th October
Brown Cow, Billinge

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Looking Back

A History of Wigan Rugby League

Compiled by Paul Hickey

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DATE	OPPONENTS	COMPETITION	V	SCORE	RESULT
Aug 23	Liverpool Stanley	League	H	39-5	W
30	Warrington	Lancs Cup Rnd.1 (1st Leg)	H	16-13	W
Sept 3	Warrington	Lancs Cup Rnd.1 (2nd Leg)	A	15-10	W
13	Swinton	League	H	50-12	W
17	Bradford Northern	League	A	16-5	W
27	Batley	League	A	44-11	W
29	St.Helens	Lancs Cup Rnd.2	A	8-7	W
Oct 4	Oldham	League	H	18-10	W
8	Rochdale Hornets	Lancs Cup Semi-Final	H	27-3	W
11	Warrington	League	A	0-17	L
18	Barrow	League	A	14-6	W
22	New Zealand	Tour Match	H	8-10	L
25	Barrow	League	H	11-13	L
Nov 1	Belle Vue Rangers	Lancs Cup Final	N	10-7	W
8	Rochdale Hornets	League	H	14-3	W
15	Halifax	League	A	28-2	W
22	Warrington	League	H	6-3	W
29	Belle Vue Rangers	League	A	23-16	W
Dec 6	Leigh	League	H	6-3	W
13	Rochdale Hornets	League	A	38-7	W
20	Dewsbury	League	H	27-6	W
25	Salford	League	H	55-10	W
26	St.Helens	League	A	6-13	L
27	Workington Town	League	H	22-2	W
Jan 1	Batley	League	H	24-0	W
3	Leeds	League	A	11-9	W
10	Oldham	League	A	6-5	W
17	Bradford Northern	League	H	14-7	W
24	Widnes	League	H	8-5	W
31	Widnes	League	A	7-7	D
Feb 7	Castleford	RLCC Rnd.1 (1st Leg)	H	27-0	W
14	Castleford	RLCC Rnd.1 (2nd Leg)	A	19-7	W
21	Castleford	League	H	34-13	W
28	Leeds	RLCC Rnd.2	H	17-3	W
Mar 6	Leeds	League	H	41-6	W
13	Warrington	RLCC Rnd.3	A	13-10	W
17	Swinton	League	A	13-2	W
20	Halifax	League	H	55-0	W
26	St.Helens	League	H	22-11	W
27	Leigh	League	A	34-8	W
29	Salford	League	A	27-9	W
Apr 3	Rochdale Hornets	RLCC Semi-Final	N	11-0	W
5	Workington Town	League	A	6-0	W
10	Dewsbury	League	A	2-14	L
14	Liverpool	League	A	22-6	W
17	Belle Vue Rangers	League	H	19-6	W
19	Castleford	League	A	14-6	W
28	Bradford Northern	Championship PPlay-off Semi-Final	H	3-15	L
May 1	Bradford Northern	RLCC Final	N	8-3	W

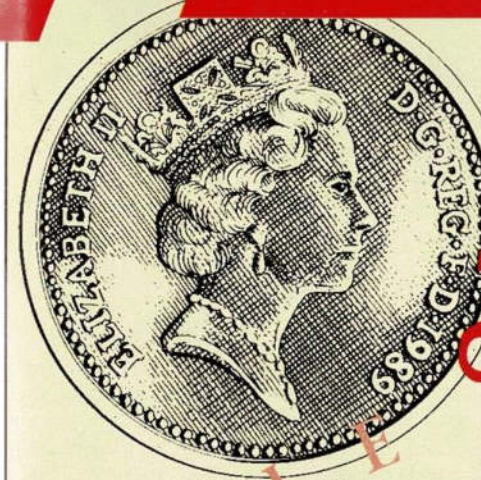


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Date	V	Opponents	K.O. Result	Att.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Aug 23	A	St. Helens County Shield	3.00 L	0-17	7,364	Hampson	Parapa	Bel	Lydon	Offish	Borca	Crompton	Lucas	Casidy	Sherrett	Betts	McGinny	Clarke	Myers (4)
28	A	Sheffield Eagles	7.30 W	46-6	5,987	Hampson	Parapa	Bel	Lydon G7	Offish T	Edwards T3	Crompton	Sherrett T	Casidy	Platt T	Betts T2	McGinny	Clarke	Robinson (2)
Sept 6	H	Hull	3.00 L	13-14	13,284	Hampson T	Parapa	Bel	Lydon G2	Offish DG	Edwards	Crompton	Lucas	Casidy	Sherrett	Platt	McGinny	Parapa	Scoop (9)
11	A	Rochdale & Salford LCC Cup 1	7.30 W	36-8	2,936	Hampson G4	Myers	Bel	Lydon G2	Scoop T	Robinson	Crompton T	Platt	Casidy	Forshaw	Parapa T	McGinny	Clarke	Gilbert (8)
20	A	Wakefield Trinity	3.30 W	19-14	7,075	Hampson G2G	Parapa	Bel	Lydon	Offish T	Farrar	Edwards	Sherrett T	Crompton T	Platt T	Betts	McGinny	Clarke	Scoop (2)
25	H	Widnes	7.30 H	14-2	13,312	Hampson	Lydon	Bel	Farrar	Offish T	Borca T, G3	Edwards	Sherrett	Crompton	Platt	Betts	McGinny	Clarke	Lucas (12)
29	A	Swinton & Bay LCC Cup 2	7.30 W	78-0	3,501	Hampson	Lydon	Bel T	Farrar	Offish T	Borca G11	Edwards T11	Sherrett	Crompton	McGinny	Betts	Parapa T	Clarke	Robinson (6)
Oct 6	A	Leigh	3.00 A															Clarke (11)	Platt (10)
6	H	Oldham LCC Cup Semi-Final	7.30																
11	H	Leeds	3.00																
17/18	A	County Cup Finals	3.15																
25	A	World Cup Final Wembley	3.00																
Nov 1	H	Sheffield Eagles	3.00																
8	A	Regal Trophy Rd. 1.	3.00																
15	A	Widnes	3.00																
22	A	Salford	3.00																
29	H	Hull K.R.	3.00																
Dec 5	A	Regal Trophy Rd. 2.	3.00																
13	A	Halifax	3.00																
19	A	Regal Trophy Rd. 3.	3.00																
26	A	St. Helens	3.00																
1993																			
Jan 1	H	Warrington	3.00																
2	A	Regal Trophy Semi-Final 1	3.00																
3	H	Bradford Northern	3.00																
9	A	Regal Trophy Semi-Final 2	3.00																
10	A	Bradford Northern	3.00																
17	H	Wakefield	3.00																
23	A	Regal Trophy Final	3.00																
24	A	Leeds	3.00																
30	A	Silk Cut Rd. 1.																	
Feb 7	A	Nissan World Sevens																	
13	H	Silk Cut Rd. 2.	3.00																
21	H	Halifax	3.00																
27	A	Silk Cut Rd. 3.																	
Mar 7	A	Hull K.R.	3.15																
13	H	Salford	3.00																
14	H	Silk Cut Semi-Final 1.																	
27	A	Silk Cut Semi-Final 2.																	
28	H	Leigh	3.00																
Apr 4	A	Castleford	3.30																
9	H	St. Helens	3.00																
12	A	Warrington	3.00																
18	H	Castleford	3.00																

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Oldham come to Central Park, this evening unbeaten to date this season and with absolutely nothing to lose. At present they sit proudly on top of the Second Division and are tipped for a return to the top flight at the end of this campaign, were really they belong.

The club has massive financial difficulties, but in coach **Peter Tunks** and his squad of players they have a very able, competitive outfit who are most certainly a match on their day with most 1st Division sides as Warrington found out to their cost at Watersheadings last month in the 1st round of this competition when the "Roughyeds" thumped up 32 points to 20. With very little cash available for team strengthening coach Peter Tunks has entered into many player exchange and loan deals to successfully strengthen his squad.

In **Wally Gibson**, Oldham have on loan, Huddersfield's highly talented Australian full back. Wally is a very exciting full blooded attacking player who in his three seasons with the Fartown club has scored many vital tries. In competition for the No 1 jersey, with Wally will be **Sean Tyrer**. Sean is a very talented and exciting full back with loads of potential and the eye for a gap who readily agreed to join Oldham after failing to break into Wigan's 1st team making only 10 appearances in 4 years. To date this term he has played full back in each of Oldham's games and has performed admirably.

In the No 2 jersey is likely to be **Scott Ranson**, for several years now, previously with Swinton and since last March with Oldham, Scott has been one of Rugby Leagues most prolific try scoring right wings. His speed, swerve and stop are his major assets and is never found wanting in defence.

Stuart Cocker in the centre berth partnering Scott Ranson, joined Oldham in the deal which took **Neil Flenaghen** and **Des Foy** to Huddersfield at the start of this campaign. Stuart is a try poacher

who is very fast and elusive and was a gem of a signing for the Fartown Club during 1990-91 from the Rugby Union world. Three-quarter **Iva Ropati** is likely to be left centre. A member of the famous Ropati family Iva was Rugby Leagues third top try scorer with 33 last season, with 30 of them coming in just 27 appearances for Sheffield Eagles before he joined the "Roughyeds" in the deal which took **Charlie McAllister** to the Don Valley. Iva is a former Featherstone Rovers star who could well be Oldham's danger man tonight!

On the left wing partnering Ropati will be **Hugh Gumbs**, a recent signing from Bradford Northern. Hugh is an exceptionally strong lad with a fair turn of pace who joined Northern from West Bowling ARLFC after only six games of Rugby League following his Rugby Union background.

Great Britain under 21 international stand off **Tommy Martyn** is a player of very exciting potential. Whether in the three quarters or at half back he is a poacher of tries and can create chances from absolutely nothing and can turn matches in a flash. His father Tommy was the former Leigh, Warrington and Great Britain forward and his uncle Mick set many scoring records as a forward in the 60's. **Steve Warberton** can play either stand off or scrum half. He joined Oldham from Woolston ARLFC during 1990-91. This very attractive ball playing half back has poise and class and in his ARL days played for BARLA'S International Open Age Side. Former Saints scrum half **Sean Devine** joined Oldham in the deal that took **Chris Joynt** to Knowsley Road. Sean is a very able half back and an excellent footballer and goal kicker but has had horrific luck with injury following a dislocation and bad break of his ankle in a Challenge Cup tie for Saints v Swinton at Maine Road eighteen months ago.

In the front row Oldham have an

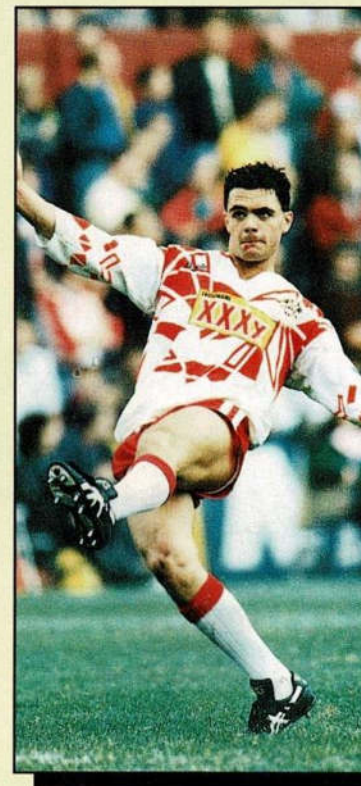
embarrassment of riches **Mark Sheals** joined the club during the close season from Leigh in a three for one exchange deal. He is a very big, strong running prop forward with a very high work rate who has become a favourite with the Watersheadings faithful.

Tiny Solomona is a Kiwi of Western Samoan origin. He joined the "Roughyeds" in early 1992 from Widnes but has only made his debut this season because of a groin injury. Tiny is now at the peak of his form and was man of the match in the 1st Round win over Warrington. **Ian Sherratt** is in his second spell at the club following a stint at Salford. The former Bradford Northern lad is a very hard working and grafting front rower with a fair turn of pace.

In the No 9 shirt this evening should be one of the finds of last season **Richard Pachniuk** who at 21 years of age is one of the best young hookers in the game. He is a Dewsbury lad with Polish grandparents who is a very clever creative, thinking type of player who is expected to reach the very top. **Ian Bates** is also from Dewsbury and is the nephew of former Great Britain internationals Alan and John Bates. Although only small, Ian is a very clever hooker with the heart of a lion.

Ben Olsen is a Danish born backrow forward who originally made a name for himself playing at London Crusaders. He impressed in his games against Oldham last season and was signed during the close season to strengthen the Oldham squad. **Mark Meadows** joined the "Roughyeds" from Trafford Brough where he was the club's most talented player. Mark who found it hard at struggling Borough last term, is a strong, fast mobile second rower with an exceptional work rate and should prove as time progresses to be a very shrewd signing. **Paul Jones** was the other player exchanged with Saints for Chris Joynt, along with Sean Devine, at the

start of the season. He is a very tall strong running back row forward who also has a fine pair of hands. Played at Saints for five years Paul, was unable to break into the first team for a sustained period and therefore found 35 of his 52 appearances for the Knowsley Road club were on the subs bench. Loose forward and captain **Richard Russell** is a local Oldham lad. He is no stranger to Central Park as he started his career at Wigan before moving back home. Whilst at Wigan he played most of his rugby on the wing and played in their fine World Cup Championship win over Manly in 1987. Now Richard is a stand off or loose forward who has a fine pair of hands and turn of pace.



▲ Stand off - Tommy Martyn.

YEAR/SCORE	RND
1989-90	
Oldham 19-18 Wigan	SF
1986-87	
Oldham 6-27 Wigan	F
1977-78	
Wigan 42-5 Oldham	1
1973-74	
Oldham 12-20 Wigan	1
1966-67	
Oldham 13-16 Wigan	F
1965-66	
Oldham 28-13 Wigan	2
1960-61	
Wigan 19-5 Oldham	1
1958-59	
Oldham 19-7 Wigan	2
1957-58	
Oldham 13-8 Wigan	F
1956-57	
Wigan 16-18 Oldham	1

WIGAN

PL10 W5 D0 L5 F186 A138 GD +48

OLDHAM

PL10 W5 D0 L5 F138 A186 GD -48

In addition Wigan have met Oldham in the Lancashire Cup Final on the following occasions:

1913-14

Oldham 5-0 Wigan Wheaters Field

1908-09

Wigan 10-9 Oldham Wheaters Field
(Broughton)

... compiled by
Paul Hickey & Chris Mott

Team Check

WIGAN

Joe Lydon

Jason Robinson

Dean Bell

Andrew Farrar

Sam Panapa

Frano Botica

Shaun Edwards

Neil Cowie

Martin Crompton

Andy Platt

Denis Betts

Billy McGinty

Phil Clarke

Kelvin Skerrett

Martin Dermott

John Monie

Team

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

Coach

OLDHAM

Wally Gibson

Scott Ranson

Stuart Cocker

Iva Ropati

Gary Christie

Tommy Martyn

Sean Devine

Ian Sherratt

Richard Pachniuk

Tiny Solomona

Paul Jones

Ben Olsen

Richard Russell

David Bradbury

Shane Tupaea

Peter Tunks

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25

PENALTIES

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25

SCRUMS

REFeree

Mr.R.Whitfield

TOUCH JUDGES

Mr.J.Blacklock (Red Flag)

Mr.F.Hawley (Yellow Flag)

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25

PENALTIES

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25

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